

ABSTRACT**5 Method and Apparatus for Discovering a Trust Chain Imparting a Required
Attribute to a Subject**

An electronic certificate has content data specifying an attribute delegation from an identified issuer to an identified subject, and an electronic signature for confirming the
10 content data. The content data includes a condition (70) requiring that a particular subject must have a particular attribute in order for the delegation to be valid. This particular subject may be the same as or different from the identified subject. More than one such subject-directed condition can be included in the certificate, the conditions being combined in a predetermined logical relationship.

15

(Fig. 5)